



The Arlington Advocate

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LOVE TO HEAR PERCUSSION



Musician and storyteller Jorge Arce performs during Saturday's fiesta for children K-3 at Robbins Library.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLEN BULLOCK



Six-year-old Ariel Zeitz Morton dances to a drum beat.



Three-year-old Corey McDonald waits for her cue on the claves.

New twist could change fate of officer

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

The surprise concession of a town police officer after a bureaucratic chess game between Officer Gary Provenzano, Town Counsel John Maher and the Board of Selectmen may result in the dropping of a lawsuit and the officer keeping his job.

Provenzano appeared before the Board of Selectmen Monday, during Citizen's Open Forum, to ask if the board would let him accept the final offer that the town had granted him. And in a long, verbal tug of war, Provenzano cleared the town of all accusations of discrimination via a hastily-written statement.

"It opened a door," said Selectman Diane Mahon of Provenzano's statement.

"I just want to continue as a police officer in the town of

Arlington," said the 23-year veteran of the police force. He offered to "drop all litigation" in exchange for the town granting him the terms of the settlement.

Provenzano has multiple sclerosis, a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system, according to a description written by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

He had filed a complaint against the town with both the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and Middlesex Superior Court.

After tense negotiations and a sharply-divided debate among selectmen, Maher said the town would be willing to reconsider Provenzano's request, despite their position that he missed the deadline to accept the town's final offer in December.

After Maher said, "anything is possible," Provenzano accepted the offer.

■ SEE OFFICER, PAGE 10

Selectmen support police improvements

Town Meeting has final say on issue

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

Director of Police Services Fred Ryan made his pitch for more manpower to the Board of Selectmen Monday and a receptive board took to the task of prioritizing money for his requests.

In the end, the board directed Town Manager Phil Farrington to include Ryan's requests in the town budget and to accept a \$375,000 grant that the Office of Community Safety procured from the U. S. Justice Department for five new patrol officers.

There are still hurdles ahead. The budget request will be reviewed by the Finance Committee, which will give a recommendation to Town Meeting.

One request that will not cost a dime, but radically changes the way the department does things, will be to eliminate the Department of Community Safety and establish separate police and fire departments.

"Our mandate was to build a 21st century police department," said Ryan. He believes his proposals will do just that.

"Basically we all agreed on the fact that the Arlington Police Force is understaffed," said Selectman Diane Mahon.

Ryan provided numerical evidence to that end. He told the board that approximate police to citizen ratios in neighboring towns including Lexington and Belmont stood at "about one to

■ SEE POLICE, PAGE 10

To bee or not to bee — Ames has the answer

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

To Kelly Ames, bees are more than pests that ruin summer picnics — they're life-savers.

Ames, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1990, should have been in the prime of her life 10 years ago. In her early 20s, Ames instead lost sight in her left eye and walked with a cane. She also experienced numbness and tingling in her body.

Ames started feeling numbness in her body as a senior in high school and went to the doctor. After a number of tests, the doctor said everything was fine.

Four years later, while working at Harvard Business School, Ames fell down a flight of stairs. She went to the doctor's again, but this time she found out she has MS.

Her family tried everything — medication, a support group, and even holy water from France. However, Ames' condition worsened.

While at a support group though, Ames heard about a different kind of therapy — bee venom. After researching the therapy, the 1986 Arlington High School graduate began

the process of using bee venom therapy (BVT) in 1994.

"At the beginning, I didn't tell too many people," said Ames. "But now I have my leg back and I'm telling everyone..."

"Their venom contains active substances which alleviates debilitating effects that this disease used to take from me, such as vision, muscle control, and the ability to think. I now have control over my disease, it no longer has control over me."

Bees sting her in numerous acupuncture points a total of 60 times over three days each week. Placing them on her skin, the bee reactively stings Ames.

For her sight, she places a bee behind her ear. For greater mobility, Ames moves to her tailbone.

The Arlington resident said she picks more "fatty, fleshy areas" to sting. In addition to a brief pinch, the sting leaves the area red and swollen.

"You like to have the 'ouch' because that means your immune system is working," she said.

Ames explained the technique: "There are trigger points on the human body that send

signals to the brain. Once I sting one of these areas with a honeybee, a signal is sent to my brain cells, which then stimulates the adrenal glands to produce cortisol. These adrenal glands then send cortisol to the area that has been stung, which then facilitates the delivery of healing. A healing which helps me see, a healing which helps me walk, a healing of well being."

Ames said bees were first used in Asia for acupuncture thousands of years ago. Apitherapy, the use of beehive products, has been used to treat arthritis, rheumatism, back pain, and skin diseases. However, people have also learned the benefits of bees in other ways. In addition to multiple sclerosis, BVT has helped people with arthritis and chronic fatigue syndrome. The bee venom also gives her energy.

"It has been a boost to my immune system," said Ames. "I haven't caught a cold since I started. I think it's the combination of the vitamins and bee venom."

It took three months of stinging before her vision improved and she started to feel the pinch of a sting.

"I was screaming and crying because I had

■ SEE BEES, PAGE 7

Reps take stand on speaker term limits

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

To State House outsiders, Arlington's state representatives' support of leadership term limits appears like another thumbing of the nose at Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran. But, to state Reps. James Marzilli and Anne Paulsen, their stance has to do with principle — not personality.

Along with 13 other Democrats and all 24 Republicans, Marzilli and Paulsen tried in vain to uphold the eight-year term limit for the speaker of the House.

However, Finneran's allies were able to change the rule, which opponents say makes the powerful Finneran "speaker for life."

"There are many good people in the House of Representatives who could be speaker," said Paulsen, adding that members, who are chairmen or vice-chairmen, want to keep Finneran on top.

Marzilli and Paulsen also dismissed the notion that the vote centered on Finneran.

"[Leadership term limits give] other people a chance and allows for other points of view," said

Paulsen.

An outspoken critic of Finneran, Marzilli said he is not against the speaker as a person.

"I have no personal hostility toward Tom Finneran," he said. "I just disagree fundamentally with his core public policies and the way he runs the House. That said, he is still the speaker, he's still the man in charge and I will work with him when I can and fight him tooth and nail when I disagree."

The alliance between progressive Democrats and Republicans

■ SEE STATE HOUSE, PAGE 10

QUESTIONS ABOUND



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLEN BULLOCK

The Arlington Heights Brigham's is closed and its future is unknown. [See story, Page 7.]

INSIDE

Health & Fitness

Inside, a special section with tips on developing a good exercise routine and ways to improve your golf swing.

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Storm preparations put DPW's budget in the red

Town also battling water-main breaks

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

The Department of Public Works needs some budgetary Visine to get the red out.

Although snow totals so far this year are below average, the threat of storms is enough that the department has already surpassed its budget for the fiscal year 2001.

"We've appropriated \$340,000," said Director of Public Works Rich Bento. "Up until last weekend's storm, we had spent \$340,000, and we spent about \$50,000 then. We're in the red."

Like many cities and towns, the threat of snow is enough to force public works departments to mobilize their fleets of plows and trucks in case of winter weather.

We asked a couple of people to

stay home (to stand by last weekend)," he said. The department didn't lay down any salt, but they also had full-time workers on duty, Bento said.

"Even with all the technology, it's still not foolproof," he added.

The town hires a consultant, Hull-based Precision Weather, to provide updated forecasts and items important to snow and ice removal operations such as pavement temperature. The service only costs the town \$1,200 a year, Bento said.

In other winter worries, a rash of water main breaks — due to multiple factors — will mean some extensive repair work to roads in the spring.

"We had some significant damage on Broadway, Spring Street, Pleasant Street, Mentomy

Road, Highland Avenue, and Hemlock Street," said Bento. "That's going to cost something in the spring."

No damage to personal property took place, he said.

In a batch of breaks in East Arlington, it looks like a pressure regulator owned by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority failed, Bento said. He indicated that four breaks were active as of Monday afternoon.

In those cases, it's mostly the old pit cast iron type of pipe that's letting go. Bento said the town has approximately 130 miles of main pipe and "we have about twenty miles of main left to be replaced."

The new pipe, constructed from ductile iron, is more durable and withstands temperature shifts. The town replaces pipes at about two miles per year, he said.

Town board openings

There are three openings on boards and commissions in Arlington.

- Disability Commission, applicant should be a person with a disability or parent of a child with a disability.
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Board of Youth Services

Interested applicants should send a letter of interest/resume to the Town Manager's Office, Town Hall, Arlington.

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— Adlai Stevenson

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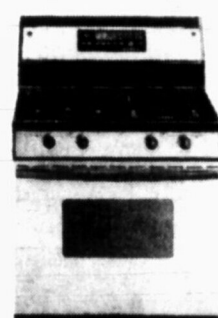
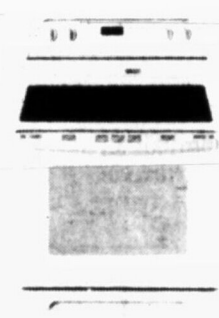
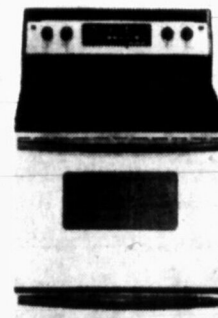
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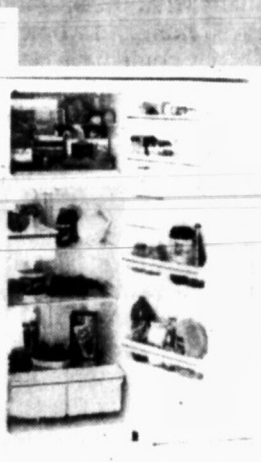
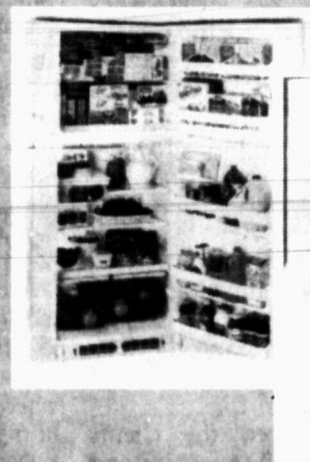
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Committee explores Center parking issue

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

As Selectman Jack Hurd put it, "yet another committee" was formed to assess the need and viability for adding parking spaces in Arlington Center.

But for good reason. The number of available parking spaces in the center of town, considered a "crisis" by some, constitutes an area that has to be studied, agreed all.

The board authorized a committee consisting of town center businesspeople, board members, Redevelopment Board members, police officers, a representative from Arlington Catholic High School (which uses a significant number of spaces in the area) and the Chamber of Commerce.

That committee will study what was included in Monday night's discussion. The lengthiest topic was a proposed private-public partnership to build a deck-style parking garage on Russell Common, where only street-level spaces now exist.

"I'm stunned at the 12 years I've spent on this board the time we've spent on parking issues," said Selectmen Chairman Kevin Greeley. But he said he wants to move on this issue.

What private businesses want, espoused mostly by expanding Broadway-based architectural firm Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger and Rowe Design Associates of Water Street, is to build this garage through a joint effort and eventually turn the lot over to the town, in exchange for a certain

number of guaranteed spaces.

Members of Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger crafted an extensive chart-filled explanation of the cost factors and explained what they felt was a minimal amount of aesthetic effect.

Since Russell Common is a downsloping area, Rowe said "You won't even see it."

Redevelopment Board member Edward Tsoi, speaking later, said, "I'm not sure we have a crisis," he said, wondering why the company couldn't build underground parking on its own property.

Some board members had caveats. Selectman Charles Lyons asked Director of Planning and Community Development Alan McClennen if there were

any deed restrictions on the property.

"I don't believe so," said McClennen.

Lyons felt that there might be, due to the donation of the Russell family as a "common, that's common, area."

"We're about out of space now," said Glenn Bell, president of Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger.

The firm plans to expand its employee base from 125 to 200 people and its building space from 30,000 square feet to 24,000 square feet. Their current building was authorized under a special permit and would require an amendment.

If they don't find a way to get more spaces, the architectural firm has threatened to leave.

Town stays with local ambulance company

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't a happy moment for Ken Donnelly.

The Arlington resident, Lexington firefighter and Secretary/Treasurer of the Mass. Firefighters' Association had just traded emotional arguments with Board of Selectman member Charles Lyons over Armstrong Ambulance's decision to void their contract.

The board, despite the additional money the town loses as a result, directed Town Manager Phil Farrington to negotiate a three-year renewable contract with the ambulance company.

But Donnelly was livid for Lyons' use of the recent tragedies in Ipswich and Ashland as fodder for the public's safety in Arlington.

In Ashland, a woman presumed dead was discovered alive by a funeral director, while a mother and her two children died in Ipswich. Only one firefighter from that department's combination of paid and private staff was able to respond to the scene.

Donnelly felt that neither situation had anything to do with the struggle for Advanced Life Support services in Arlington.

"On Ashland, that had nothing to do with what was going on in Arlington," said Donnelly. "If it's a crime scene, the police are in charge."

"There comes a point where firefighters fight fires," Lyons retorted. "In every one of these situations, if the private sector provides free of charge service, there's no problem."

Connolly said he didn't plan on speaking, but when he did, he warned that "the idea of a for-profit company running a public service is of great concern to me."

Armstrong Chief Executive Officer Brian Connor told the board that his service was sharper because they dealt with enough calls in the region and kept their training current. Both Lyons and Connor praised Armstrong's low response time to emergency calls.

But Connolly shot back, saying, "If Armstrong elects to transport patients, ambulances will be tied up. They will be caught in transport maybe on divert, and they may get caught more."

Asked if it's a union issue, Connolly said, "Is it a union issue? Yeah, it's about jobs. We're taking ambulance runs, runs that we've done, and they're taking them away from us. We lost part of our work. I don't know if anybody would be happy. I'll be honest with you."

"You talk about revenue loss here; there's a revenue cost," Lyons said. "If I'm getting a service for free, what the hell do I fight (Armstrong) for."

Though Arlington's board voted to direct the town manager to go

forward, many other towns are having lengthier discussions. Lexington, Connolly said, is very upset by what Armstrong is doing and have not signed anything yet. He said that Lexington is also pursuing discussion of establishing its own ALS service, but is thinking in a regional direction with the same 11-member consortium that Armstrong serves now.

Armstrong wrote a letter to the 11 cities and towns on Dec. 22 that told them their contract with the Arlington-based ambulance company would be "voided," because of changes in the way Medicare is billed.

As of Feb. 1, Armstrong will no longer provide the towns with the \$130 plus \$6 a mile reimbursement it gave for each advanced life support run to any of five local hospitals.

Connolly acknowledged, "But now ALS is going to start transporting. What happens if they can't make enough money out of it?"

Other happenings:

•The town officially closed the Town Meeting Warrant at 11:30 p.m. Monday. The full text of the warrant was not ready by The Advocate's deadline, said Board Administrator Caryn Cove.

•The Board voted to approve the appointment of Mary Winstanley O'Connor, who is a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, to replace resigned member Maurice O'Connell. O'Connell's term ran until 2002. Normally, the Board of Assessors are elected officials, but O'Connell left in the middle of his term.

•Several members of the Open Space Committee again voiced their support for the full restoration of the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail by landscaper Dante Muzzioli.

Town Counsel John Maher said he expected to deliver a status report to the board at the next meeting in executive session.

The town filed suit against Muzzioli for what it feels is an improper encroachment along the embankment of the path. Negotiations between plaintiff and defendant continue.

•As Arlington begins to plan for voting district redistricting as mandated by the Federal Census and the newly-passed state law that expedites the process, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development Kevin O'Brien asked the board to consider a reduction in the number of precincts without reducing how many people serve at town meetings.

Initial concerns by the board were alleviated by O'Brien. He is proposing roughly 12 or 13 precincts to match the roughly 13 polling places the town authorizes for.

Nothing was decided, and the decision will be studied more.

Mass Ave. resident arrested in prostitution sting

BY SUSAN TORDELLA
STAFF WRITER

Three people, including an Arlington resident, were arrested Jan. 24 in connection to a prostitution service in Woburn, according to police in that city.

Carol Verde, 35, of 48 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, was charged with deriving support from prostitution. Bisain Serrano, 48, of Caulfield Road, Woburn, was charged with receiving income from prostitution. Debra Guyette, 30, of 2 Bennett St., Beverly, was charged with prostitution and receiving payment for prostitution.

Police detectives launched an investigation in early January after receiving a tip from an informant that an ad had appeared in the *Boston Phoenix* reading "AAA-Anonymous A — on the North Shore. Clean," followed by a telephone number.

Woburn Det. Mike Pandolph said the number was called, an appointment secured and an undercover detective posed as a client

who agreed to pay \$250 for an hour of services.

The arrests came after two weeks of surveillance when detectives observed activities within the building at 17 Campbell St.

Pandolph said they "weren't exactly sure initially what the operation was" inside. They noticed men and women leaving the premises. "They could have been getting a legitimate massage," he said. The Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council Drug Task Force also entered the building during the raid last Wednesday, a little after 6:30 p.m. No drug-related arrests were made.

Police observed people staying at the building for brief periods of time which "would be consistent with the period of time for the sex act," Pandolph said.

Verde is suspected of answering the telephone, making appointments for clients, and taking money for the service.

Serrano allegedly observed the clients entering and exiting the club by watching and recording their actions with a closed-circuit

TV camera. Police believe he watched the activities on a 60-inch TV in another room and charged Serrano with violating a law that prohibits the audio taping of people without their knowledge.

From records confiscated during a search, Pandolph estimated the operation had been in existence for about three weeks and had serviced at least 50 clients. Large economy-size packages of condoms were found on the premises, he added.

Six to 10 other provocatively-dressed women were also noticed in the establishment, Pandolph said. The first floor was set up like a club with a bar, couches, pool table, and ping pong table.

According to the Assessor's Office, Ruth Rodriguez of East Brookline Street in Boston bought the property from the Loyal Order of Moose in December 1999 for \$145,000. Published reports said the tenants paid \$1,300 per month in rent.

Detectives are continuing to investigate the case.

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- MISS CONGENIALITY (PG-13) 2:35; 4:50; 7:20; 10:00
- BILLY ELLIOT (R) 2:25; 4:35; 7:15; 9:50
- 102 DALMATIANS (G) 1:20; 3:15
- BEST IN SHOW (PG-13) 1:20; 3:10; 5:00; 7:25; 9:55
- RUGRATS IN PARIS, THE

MOVIE (G) 1:45; 3:25

• YI YI (NR) 5:30; 9:00

• MEET THE PARENTS (PG-13) 1:25; 3:30; 5:35; 7:45; 10:05

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 3 & 4

• THE FAMILY MAN (PG-13) 5:10; 7:35; 10:00

• MISS CONGENIALITY (PG-13) 12:15; 2:35; 4:50; 7:20; 10:00

• BILLY ELLIOT (R) 12:10; 2:25; 4:35; 7:15; 9:50

• 102 DALMATIANS (G) 11:25; 1:20; 3:15

• BEST IN SHOW (PG-13)

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Police warn residents about ongoing scam

BY LES G. MASTERTON
STAFF WRITER

Arlington police are warning residents this week of a scam involving people claiming to be water department employees.

Police Services Director Fred Ryan said Wednesday that there were three reported incidents in Arlington, in addition to similar calls in Newton and Somerville.

"We are still actively investigating it," said Ryan. "We want to caution people to seek and receive proper credentials from town officials."

Police believe there is more than one individual involved and they have a number of suspects.

"We are working with other agencies experiencing similar crimes and collectively coming up with probable cause to seek complaints against those responsible," said Ryan.

Though one of the Arlington incidents was thwarted by a Pioneer Road resident, who denied access to the home and called police, two other residents were not as lucky.

On Tuesday, a man claiming to be a water department employee entered a Glen Avenue home, ran the water, and told the resident she was due a \$35 rebate from the town. The man asked her if she could change a \$100 bill. When she said "no," the man fled the

home, according to Ryan.

Meanwhile, a Thorndike Street man told police that he was walking his dog Jan. 24. He returned to find a white man around 60 years old inside his apartment.

The man told the resident that he was from the water department and that the town owed him \$35. The reported water department employee proceeded to turn on the faucet and flush the toilet, explaining that "they" were putting in a "new machine," according to police.

The intruder told the resident that he had to get a flashlight to check the basement and went to his truck. However, the reported water department employee fled

the area in his truck. The resident later found that around \$800 was taken from a wallet in his residence.

Ryan said residents should be aware that water department employees have identification, but that no town official is going to enter a home, claiming that either the resident is owed or owes money to the town.

"No town official is going to ask for cash for any services," he said.

The key is to ask for identification, but if a person still does not feel right, don't allow anyone in your home.

"If someone is not comfortable with a situation, they should call police," said Ryan.

RCN, town continue contract talks

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

While negotiations continue for a full cable contract for RCN, the debate about who will provide Arlington's public access programming continues.

Last Wednesday's hearing, which was required by state and federal law, will conclude with a vote on the contract by the Board of Selectman within 60 days.

The question with RCN, said Selectman Charles Lyons, largely remains with their customer response and service.

"It's clear they've got the technical capability, but what about services?," said Lyons. "Are they going to be responsive to consumer complaints? They've opened an office in Arlington and that's good. I hope they continue their presence here."

A group of residents, incorporated as the Arlington Community Media, Inc., has offered their assistance in providing a broadcast cable service to the town. Because they have assumed 100 percent of the production costs, AT&T Broadband

has been reluctant to allow RCN to televise public meetings. The group hopes to provide Public Educational and Governmental Access (PEG) access universally.

"We're working toward the future," member Kathleen Colwell said. "The hearing was basically for the financial ability of the company. So we're not looking at the current contract as a group."

RCN has about 3,000 customers in town, which means that the 5 percent of gross revenue they will donate to the town under federal law is a "paltry amount," said Lyons. Next year, he said, the town will start negotiations on AT&T's contract. It holds the bulk of the cable subscribers in Arlington.

"Down the road, I'd like to see a full-fledged access corporation," Lyons said. "I think it will be a decision based on their funding level and capability. (But) If we fund an access corporation, we won't have a funding source for the school system."

Right now the money that AT&T donates is ferreted directly to the school system for educational programming.

The 5 percent law is a mandate set by the Federal Communications Commission through the Telecommunications Act of 1996. According to Robert Wilson, spokesman for the state office of Telecommunications and Energy, cable companies contribute a maximum of 5 percent to the town coffers. There is no set minimum, he said, and negotiations are handled between the town and the cable company.

PEG are typically the three types of public access programming. Each one gets its own channel within the cable system. While AT&T Broadband (formerly Media One) carries PEG, RCN does not.

"Other communities have had a wealth of success in getting local programming, but we haven't been so successful," said Brian Greeley, another member of the group.

While all hope programming will expand, Lyons said he hopes people's cable bills shrink.

"Having competition in the cable market I think is good," Lyons said "Hopefully it will bring the price down."

Campaign notebook

School Committee candidate Suzanne Baratta Owayda will officially kick off her campaign at an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4 at her home, 12 Bradley Road. She plans on speaking and answering questions at approximately 3:30 p.m.

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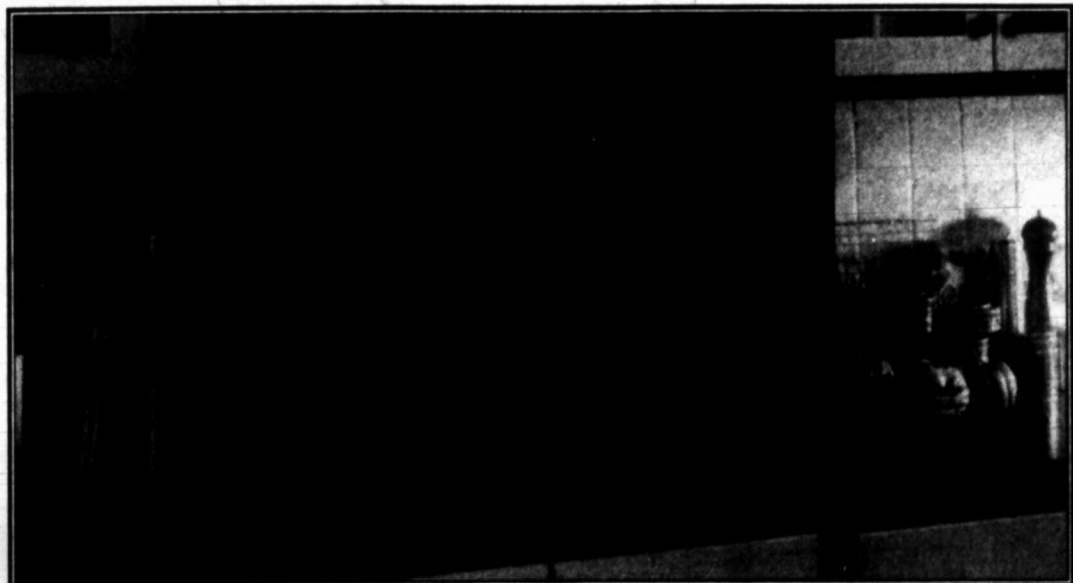
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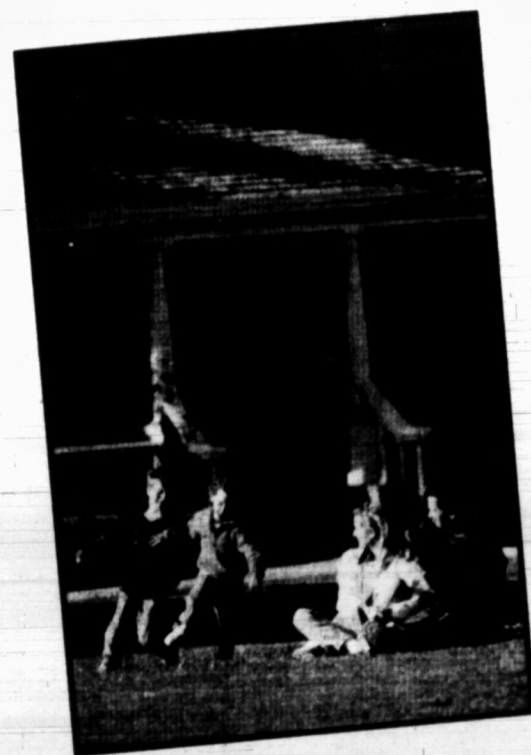
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SCHOOL NOTES

Brackett survey discussion

The Brackett School Council is sponsoring a community forum, set for tonight, Thursday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m., to follow up the school/home connection survey. Guest speakers to be Joani LaMarchia, Brackett parent

committee member, and Jodi Wilinsky, Hill, founder and co-director of Parenting Resource Associates.

Topics to be discussed include: welcoming new families; how to make the transition smoother; parent involvement in the classroom; sharing our visions; and understanding your child's education; learning more about curriculum, instruction, assessment.

The meeting will begin in the cafeteria before breaking into small discussion groups throughout the building.

Also at Brackett:

- Brackett T-shirts are on sale through Feb. 2 at lunchtime in the cafeteria and from 2 to 2:30 p.m. in the lobby. Shirts are light gray with royal blue print and are priced at \$11 each.

- Marijke Taylor, who has a son in Mrs. Robinson's class, and a daughter in Mrs. Costello's class, is participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer this year. This is a 60-mile walk from Leominster to Boston and takes place over three days. Marijke has to raise at least \$1,900, but hopes to raise more. The net proceeds from the event will support non-profit breast health programs. To make a tax-deductible donation, send a check, made payable to "Avon Breast Cancer 3 day," and mail it to her at 119 Mount Vernon St., by Friday, Feb. 9.

Upcoming at Brackett

- The next PTO Board meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. at the school. PTO board and committee chairs are asked to bring ideas and needs for planning winter/spring activities.

Ottoson art teacher's works at Brandeis

Paintings by Ottoson art teacher David Moore are at Brandeis University's Rose Art Museum through March 25, in an exhibit titled "Minimal and Conceptual Art in the Brandeis University Collection." His works are also in an exhibit at the Boston Public Library during February and March in the "Proof in Print" exhibit.

Meanwhile, works by teachers Nancy Crasco and Judi Warren Blaydon are on exhibit at the New England Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck St., Lowell, through March 25. The exhibit is called "Mementos, Memories & Meditations."

For more information, contact the museum at (978) 452-4207 or e-mail NEQuiltmuseum.org.

Ottoson e-mail efforts

An Ottoson Middle School parent has started a second e-mail list, this one to address a need for members to express opinions.

Called the Ottoson Parents Forum, it is for any Ottoson school, education or any issue about raising adolescents in Arlington.

The new group, announced last week, is among a group of Arlington lists that has recently switched from Egroups.com to Yahoo.com.

Click here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OttosonParentsForum> and look for the instructions to subscribe. Current subscribers are invited to switch.

Upcoming at Ottoson:

- School dance, Friday, Feb. 2, from 7 to 10 p.m., in the Ottoson cafeteria. Tickets are \$3, and must be purchased in advance during lunch period.
- Feb. 8, math evening for Parents, 7 to 9.
- Feb. 9, Activity Day (all students participate in a chosen activity).

dents participate in a chosen activity).

Dallin breakfast

The annual Dallin pancake breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 10, from 8 to 11 a.m.

If you would like to register and pay in advance as well as volunteer to help, please return your registration and volunteer slips to the manila folder in the white PTO bin in the main office.

Questions? Call Anna Robbertz (646-3177).

Lion in lobby

The lion, in the front lobby at Dallin, is the result of a project conceived by parent Renee Lubowich and supported by Mrs. Dao, Mrs. Trieu, and many other parents.

First- and second-grade children, who worked diligently after school for two months, created the lion.

The Dallin community hopes that everyone who looks at this lion will see it not only as a symbol of the Lunar New Year but also as a symbol of its people.

Upcoming at Dallin:

- Next bottle-and-can drive, Feb. 6 and 7.
- Daddy/daughter dance, Friday, Feb. 9, Gibbs Gym (Tufts Street entrance), 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at \$4 per ticket. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Arlington Recreation or at the Gibbs the night of the dance.

At AHS

- Come and meet the Arlington High School boys' and girls' ice hockey teams and coaches, Sunday, Feb. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hockey Rink on Summer Street.

Stratton dance

Calling all current and former Stratton School parents! The Stratton PTO invites you to celebrate Valentine's Day at the Country Sweetheart Dance and BBQ on Saturday evening, Feb. 10, at Town Hall.

Get together with old and new friends for an old-fashioned good time. Come with your honey and/or organize a table for eight to 10 people.

The award-winning Robin Right Band will provide the entertainment while you chow down on barbecue from Redbones. There will be a cash bar, lots of raffles, a class-basket auction, prizes and surprises.

All proceeds from this fundraising event will support Stratton's education and enrichment programs.

Tickets are \$35 per person and are on sale now. Adults only.

For tickets or more information, call Laura Morrisette (646-0337).

Upcoming at Stratton:

- Feb. 7, PTO meeting, 6:45 p.m. in the auditorium.

Hardy needs help

Both Hardy at Brackett and Hardy at Stratton are looking for caring adults to supervise children as they eat lunch and have a short recess. You may select your day or days, Monday through Friday from 10:45 to 12:40. Call Linda Garrity, 316-3782, for salary information.

Hardy also needs a bus monitor on the red route for the morning and afternoon as well as a monitor on the blue route for the afternoon. Call 316-3782.

Two parent volunteers are needed for the Stratton playground on Monday mornings from 7:45 to 8:05 as well as a volunteer for a short period after school at Brackett.

Peirce fund-raiser

Brighten your February vacation as the humorous Bob E. Thomas brings his Quest of Tyrone Troll to Arlington in a benefit for the Peirce PTO enrichment committee.

Thomas is a dancer and storyteller with a knack for connecting with children. In Quest of Tyrone Troll, Thomas combines dance and pantomime to present a high-energy original story, which

promises action and audience participation.

The Peirce PTO will sponsor two shows with Thomas, on Tuesday, Feb. 20 — one from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., and from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. Both shows will be presented at the Calvary Church, 300 Mass. Ave., East Arlington. The snow date for the show is Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Tickets for the show will be sold at the door for \$5, but to order tickets in advance for \$4 each, call 646-8514. Last year's fund raiser sold out.

Kindergarten information

Bishop

Incoming kindergarten parent orientation, today, Thursday, Feb. 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., for parents only.

Kindergarten registration at Bishop is set for March 8, for parents and children. It will involve a short visit to the classrooms.

The date and time for the story time with Bishop Principal Steve Carme, for parents and children, is to be announced.

Peirce

Registration, Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the Peirce auditorium, basement floor. The school entrance on Newland road will be open.

A panel will briefly discuss the procedure for filling out registration forms, PTO activities, kindergarten curriculum and the kindergarten from the parents' viewpoint.

A coffee hour will follow. Registration materials will be provided. Forms must be filled out and returned on registration day, Wednesday, March 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. A child born in 1996 is eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2001-2002.

Parents must bring to registration: birth, certificate and immunization records. Questions? Call 316-3736.

Parent forums to resume

Parent Education Forums, 2000-2001, continue in February with "Brain Gym: A Readiness

Program for Whole-Brain Learning," for parents grades K-12 Thursday, Feb. 8, Bishop School, 7 to 9 p.m.

Join in this interactive presentation on the Brain Gym Program, which teaches integrative movements that facilitate effective communication between brain and body. These simple exercises can reduce stress, increase creativity and empower the learner in all of us. The presenter is Bonnie Hershey of the Kinesiology Connection, Lexington. The snow date is Thursday, Feb. 15.

These programs are sponsored and funded by the Arlington public schools' health education, family & consumer science departments, Title I, guidance and counseling services, the Robbins Library Russell Fund, the Board of Youth Services, the Parent Involvement Project, school PTOs and The Human Rights Commission.

A full list of the forums is online at <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/skforums.htm>.

At Thompson

- Volunteers needed: The Thompson Times, the school newsletter, needs a volunteer to help get it up and running again this year. There is so much going on at Thompson School for students and parents to read about, a volunteer is really needed to lend a hand. Interested? Call the PTO (648-2723).

- Thompson library also needs volunteers to help shelf books. Call 316-3774.

- Thompson science club has begun again and needs adult volunteers (no science background necessary) to help each Friday afternoon. Interested? Call School Linked Services (316-3774).

School news, events

Tell the public the news about your public school by telling Bob Sprague, communication specialist for Arlington public schools. E-mail school-related items to bsprague1@rcn.com or call 641-4490 by 10:30 a.m. any Monday for publication in The Advocate the following Thursday. He also posts school information on the town's Web site and lists upcoming school events at the site's online calendar.

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Latest buzz: Resident promotes therapy

■ BEES, FROM PAGE 1

the feeling back," said Ames of the initial pain.

A honeybee only lives for a month and, with its stinger gone, only lasts 24 hours. With that in mind, Ames' Mountain Avenue home includes an observation bee hive with 2,000 of the insects. She also visits a local beekeeper, when she needs a new supply.

Ames carries a glass jar with a handful of bees. When it's time to be stung, Ames uses locking tweezers and grabs the insects by their upper body instead of their lower body, which could mean the loss of the stinger.

The Arlington resident has become one of the leading advocates for BVT. She has been featured in a number of media outlets, including "Unsolved Mysteries," "Bee Informed: The American Apitherapy Society," and even the "National Enquirer."

Her media exposure increases starting Feb. 2 when she will appear on Animal Planet's "Twisted Tales." The show will be broadcast at 10:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, 1:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, 10:30 p.m. Friday, March 23, and 1:30 and 5:30 a.m. Saturday, March 24.

She will also be on The Discov-

ery Channel in the future and has also showed hundreds of people the technique at her home.

The multi-media advocate has produced a video called "Beeing Healthy" featuring Ames' story and how BVT has helped her. She receives letters from around the world asking for help.

"[Videos] go out all over the world. I went to Scotland to start a guy [on bee venom therapy]," she said.

More than a decade after her diagnosis, Ames still works in the Harvard Business School admissions office. She also works out at the school's gym. There is no cure for ms, but that's not stopping Ames from fighting the dreaded disease.

"I have my vision back, I can walk, I can go in the car, and I can go shopping," she said.

Though she credits the honeybees for reversing her condition, Ames also thinks the power of the mind has something to do with her recovery.

"It's not just the bees. You have to want to fight it and I'm fighting it," she said.

For more information, call Kelly Ames at 641-3109, e-mail her at beesting@earthlink.net or visit her Web site at www.beeinghealthy.com.



Kelly Ames uses tweezers to catch a honeybee, before allowing the insect to sting her.



A honeybee stings Ames on the leg.

Democrats holding meeting

The monthly meeting of the Arlington Democratic Town Committee will be held on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Safety Building.

One agenda item will be Campaign Finance Reform. All interested Democrats are welcome to attend. The building is handicapped accessible.

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Eatery's future unknown

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

A small sign in the front window of the Arlington Heights Brigham's says "Closed."

"As of today, we're not aware of what status the store is in," said George Trafton, vice president of Store Operations for the headquarters of Brigham's. "We just know the store is locked."

Brigham's publicist Billy Connelly said the Arlington Heights store was operated by Charlene and Martin Nahigan of Arlington.

They leased the license to operate the store and the building from Tom and Pat Baldini of Winchester, said Trafton.

Gina Baldini, representing her father, Tom, declined comment.

Arlington is the home base

for the ice cream company. The headquarters is located on Mill Street, along with a company operated restaurant. That site was once Buttrick's original ice cream, which Brigham's bought out when they moved the headquarters to Mill Street in 1968.

According to Connelly, the difference between a franchise and a license is that, with the former, Brigham's has "strict clauses and phrases — a lot more do's and don'ts than a license agreement." With a license, the licensee has the right to sell products and use the Brigham's name and menu, he added.

A licensee can enter into an agreement with another company if they choose. It is up to the license holder what to do with the property, he said.

E-mail the editor of The Arlington Advocate at arlington@cnc.com

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EDITORIAL

Division would make town's streets safer

The town received some good news this week, when Director of Police Services Fred Ryan found out that Arlington will receive a federal grant that will help temporarily fund five police officers.

The grant would mean developing a traffic division, which is a fixture in many departments.

The Board of Selectmen Monday gave a thumbs up to accepting the grant, but the question will ultimately be answered by Town Meeting. It might appear like a no-brainer, but, by accepting the grant, those five officers will be the town's financial responsibility after the life of the grants.

With a number of budget issues facing the town, accepting the grant is not such an easy answer. However, given Crest Associate's (the group which reviewed the department last year) recommendations and looking at the department's shortcomings in some areas, *The Advocate* believes that the town must accept the grants.

One of the major town issues, which is agreed upon by Crest and residents in the survey, is traffic. Yet, the department does not have a division specifically geared to that issue.

With officers assigned to respond to traffic issues, study the problem, and develop a solution, Arlington would have safer roads. Developing a division will also end the practice of placing a radar machine on a street when speeding problems arise.

Instead, the department could develop a plan and review its effectiveness.

It's clear to see why residents site traffic as the number one concern — there is just not enough emphasis put on this issue. For instance, on Tuesday morning, *The Advocate* spoke to Ryan. At that time, five officers were on-duty in Arlington. However, with two officers transporting prisoners to court, another one watching an intoxicated man at the station, only two officers patrolled Arlington's streets.

Instead of being a primary service (which is what the town wants), traffic has taken a backseat to transporting prisoners and responding to other calls.

Then there is the issue of oversized commercial vehicles lumbering along Arlington's streets. Ryan acknowledged that officers are not enforcing commercial vehicle violations because of the lack of staffing. This means that oversized vehicles are destroying Arlington's streets and infrastructure.

Regarding the funding dilemma, a traffic unit would mean more tickets and — in turn — provide more money for the town.

However, with the town facing a number of fiscal constraints, *The Advocate* thinks the town should explore an additional option. Parking tickets range from \$10 for meter violations, wrong direction parking, and all-night parking to \$50 for parking in a handicapped space or ramp. A potential money maker would be to increase all parking fines by — for instance — \$5. A traffic unit handing out more tickets with higher fines could prove a windfall for the town — though it would not fully-fund the unit.

While a traffic unit will mean more speeding tickets, the town is not able to override the state law of \$50 speeding tickets for people driving 1 to 10 mph over the speed limit and \$10 for every mile above 10 mph.

However, a consistent police presence on Arlington's roads will also let drivers know that they can't speed through town. An example of a reputation preceding a police force is Connecticut, which just recently increased its speed limit to 55 mph on Route 84. State troopers are a regular feature of that highway and drivers know not to speed through The Constitution State.

The traffic division is needed and some creative funding solutions could help fund the unit.

A traffic unit would mean more tickets and — in turn — provide more money for the town.



DAVE GRANLUND © 2001 METROWEST DAILY NEWS

Get your fingers ready for a lot of walking

Two days after the upcoming town election (on Saturday, March 31), Arlington gets a new area code. Don't worry, your existing phone will stay in the 781 area, but for new phone installations from competing phone companies, or new cell phones or pagers, etc., 339 might be the area code instead.

Guest
Columnist

GLENN KOENIG

This now means that starting on Monday, April 2, you will have to dial 781 for every phone in our area, even for the familiar 641, 643, and 646 numbers right in Arlington. But don't wait until then to start. Get in practice now. The phone system already accepts area codes for every call to help you get in the habit. Granted, it's a far cry from named exchanges such as "Mission 6, ..." familiar to Arlingtonians back in the 1950s.

Meanwhile, every time you leave your phone number on an answering machine message, write your phone number in on a form, or add your phone number to a list of

any kind, be sure to include the 781 area code prefix. The old parentheses, indicating that area codes were optional, are a thing of the past. Instead of (781) 646-1000, write 781-646-1000 because the 781 will always have to be dialed.

Don't think 781 is being singled out. Residents of Belmont and Watertown, who escaped an area code change last time around (via special legislation that allowed them to remain in 617) will now also have to dial all 10 digits, even for other 617 numbers. Their familiar area code is being joined by 857 on the same date. To the north, 978 is being joined by 351, and 508 to the south will have 774 added.

What you don't have to dial is a "1" before any local call. Even calls to 617, as long as they are local, do not require a 1; just start dialing with 617. The call will still go through if you dial a 1, a capability that was retained for compatibility with older dialing systems.

In some businesses and organizations that have their own internal phone systems

you may have been forced to dial a 1 for local calls, but this is only because their equipment has not been properly updated; from any normal phone this is not necessary. Only dial 1 when you know you're calling outside your local area and you expect to get charged for a toll call.

We have our rapidly expanding and further deregulated telecommunications industry to thank for all this. Gone are the days when one lifted the receiver and exclaimed "Operator, give me long distance!"

Now you can pick up your phone and be talking to someone in California within half a minute and pay only a few cents instead of many times that. We now have lower prices as a result of competition and we enjoy increased "reachability" with pagers, cell phones, etc. The price for all this is being measured in extra "finger walking" on our telephone keypads instead of in dollars.

Glenn Koenig is an Arlington resident and a computer, video, and telecommunications consultant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Agrees with column

I must add my words of praise to the guest commentary by Betty Rich for middle school student Sonia Oram's reasoned request for structured school days before holiday breaks.

As a strong supporter of our school system (I have been a parent in our schools from 1978 to 2000 and served for nine years on the School Committee), I know that our teachers perform educational wonders in the classroom for students but often, as Sonia states, the day before a holiday break — or the last days of the school year — can become in some classrooms, a time when studies are not uppermost on the agenda.

The fact that this happens is not the sole responsibility of the classroom teacher. To be honest, there are some videos that are extremely valuable in classroom learning. I suspect that each teacher thinks that letting the students watch a movie is a good and easy thing to do for the class. The difficulty arises when the school day is replaced, however inadvertently, by a day of random movie watching.

This is a great opportunity for the administration to request that building and department administrators develop with the teaching staff and even, parents or volunteers, a wonderful exciting day of learning in every classroom.

It could be a theme tied to the season, a showcase for student talents, a chance for community outreach, a celebration of

diversity — religious or cultural. Whatever direction the schools decide to go in, these days should be educationally meaningful as well as fun.

We have a town that is amazingly rich and generous in people and possibilities. Our school leaders are strong and resourceful educators. A quick glance at the calendar indicates where these days come in the school year.

It would be wonderful if the administration started now to plan for those days we know need more structure so every precious school day is filled with the inspiration and the joy of learning that we want for all of our students.

Katharine D. Fennelly

Thank you

To all the community members who generously and enthusiastically volunteered, promoted and contributed to the Teddy Bear Drive, 2000, I thank you sincerely.

The Fourth Annual Teddy Bear Drive yielded more than 6,000 new teddy bears. The number of social service organizations, hospitals and soup kitchens that received teddy bears nearly doubled since 1999 (see the complete recipient listing on our web site, www.teddybeardrive.org). The outreach and support that Arlington gave to the Teddy Bear Drive was incredibly heartwarming. Because of the Arlington Fire Department and the hard work and perseverance of people like Susan Markwarth,

Lisa Mane and many more community members, who contributed to our success, there are thousands of children smiling today as they are comforted by their new teddy bears.

One of the thank you notes that we received recently, from a child who received a teddy bear, reads "Thank you for the new friend. I will never let him go."

Another shelter wrote, "When the gentleman from your foundation came to the door, laden with bags of teddy bears, you would have thought he was handing out gold (or for our women, keys to apartments). It is both touching and troubling that so many women asked, 'People bought these for us?' — they are not use to it. I cannot thank you enough. The 'you' in the last sentence refers to all of you in the community who have everything to do with why the Teddy Bear Drive continues to thrive."

As a result of the inspiring community participation, ongoing support, and multiple inquiries requesting that the program be expanded, we are working hard to go nationwide with the Teddy Bear Drive. It's so wonderful that this growth is possible because of communities working together to make a difference in the lives of many children who are touched knowing that somebody cares.

Thank you all for caring and believing in the Teddy Bear Foundation.

Robin Phelan
Founder
Ipswich

The Arlington Advocate

www.townonline.com/arlington9 Meriam Street
Lexington, MA 02420Garth Charter Executive Publisher
Richard K. Lodge Editor-in-Chief
Kathleen Cordeiro Managing EditorLes Masterson Editor
Walter Moynihan Sports Editor
Dana Fronczak Staff Reporter
Anne-Marie Smolski Calendar EditorPROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS
New England Press Association,
New England Newspaper Association

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the goal of *The Arlington Advocate* to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need, in a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.

Letters to the editor policy

The *Arlington Advocate* welcomes letters to the editor.

To be published, letters must include a signature and either a daytime phone number, home phone number, or both. We will not print the information — only your name and title (where applicable). We will not print

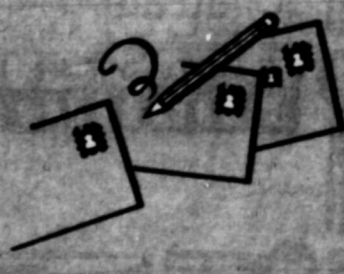
anonymous letters.

Letters should be limited to 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity, or to run a sampling of opinion when multiple letters are submitted on the same topic.

Letters must be dropped off at the drop box — at White Hen

Pantry, 94 Summer St. — by noon Monday or delivered by 5 p.m. Monday to the office at 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02420.

Readers can also fax their letters to 674-7735 or e-mail them to arlington@cnc.com by 5 p.m. Monday.



Guitarist jams for a friend

Wolfman & Tink perform at the House of Blues

BY DAVE SANTINO
CORRESPONDENT

Arlington has been home to one of the most successful guitarists in the area, Bob Wolfman, for 20 years. In Wolfman's 35-year career he has played with celebrities such as Larry Coryell, Grover Washington, Chick Corea, and Arlen Roth.

Wolfman's current band, Wolfman & Tink, performed at the House of Blues with the Arlen Roth Band last month.

Wolfman & Tink is a four-piece band that plays rock and blues with a jazz influence. The band was formed in August 1999 by Wolfman and Tom "Tink" Tincin, the band's drummer, and is already becoming a hit with audiences. Other members of Wolfman & Tink include Bruce Hoppe on keyboard and Rick Lusignea on bass. The band is currently working on a CD at Tinwolf Studios — Tincin's 32-track digital studio.

"It's an incredibly tight professional band," said Wolfman. "We've been incredibly well received. We do a mixture of originals and cover tunes."

Influences are everybody from Gary Moore and B.B. King to Joe Beck and Robbin Ford, he said.

Arlen Roth, Wolfman's close friend for more than 40 years, was Wolfman's major inspiration for the House of Blues performance. Roth, like Wolfman, is no stranger to success. He has become known worldwide as a guitarist, being voted the #1 guitarist 10 years in a row, and also being voted one of the "Top 100 Most Influential Guitarists of All Time."

"Arlen and myself grew up on the same street in the Bronx together," said Wolfman. "We met trick-or-treating one Halloween night. I've known Arlen for over 40 years. He's my oldest male friend in the world and he's one of the closest to me. We jammed together and hung out listening to all the great black blues guitarists and then of course the British invasion. We've stayed in touch and in some ways have gotten even closer over the years."

"Arlen had a terrible tragedy almost three years ago. His wife and daughter were killed in a car accident. Arlen was then pretty much out of circulation for a while. He stopped playing and performing and was just busy running his Hotlicks company (Roth's music instruction video company)."

Wolfman organized the House of Blues concert as a way to help Roth get through this tragedy.

"I wanted to have a memorial concert dedicated to Arlen's wife and daughter that he lost," said Wolfman. "It's also a wonderful opportunity for me and Arlen to reunite on stage. I want to help get him out again and get his performing career going again. I really wanted to help Arlen and my band as well."

Wolfman said he has "always been interested in music. I've been interested in music since I was a very little kid. I began getting very curious about the guitar at about 10 or 11 years old. I started getting seriously into it at 12. By the time I was 13, I knew that's what I wanted to do for my life. So I've been playing since I was 11 years old. I've been playing the guitar for probably about 35 years."

When asked what he enjoys most about music, Wolfman said, "I love being engulfed by really good music. It moves me emotionally and nourishes my soul. I love to play. I love the physical contact with the instrument, creating sound with it, and the endless variety of possibilities."

In addition to being one of the most accomplished guitarists in the area, Wolfman is also one of the premier guitar instructors. He has been teaching private guitar lessons for more than 25 years.

After graduating from Berklee College of Music in 1980, Wolfman moved to Arlington. In 1981, after teaching private lessons for a few years, he opened Wolfman's School of Music, which is now considered, according to Wolfman, "the prep school for Berklee College of Music." Wolfman's School of Music has produced some accomplished musicians, such as Dar Williams and Gary Hoey.

Wolfman said he offers "private instruction in guitar, bass, music theory, and for improvising keyboardists as well as guitar players. I have been long considered one of the most well-known guitar instructors in the New England area. I teach all styles and all levels."

If you would like to learn more about Wolfman's School of Music, you can visit the school's official Web site at www.wolfmans.com.

Upcoming performances for Wolfman & Tink will be at the annual Harper's Ferry Blues Festival in February (exact date to be announced) and at the Skybar on Feb. 9. Also, in February, the band will be performing live on WJUL, UMass Lowell's radio station.

Town Online receives facelift

TownOnline.com, the Web site of Community Newspaper Company (CNC), this week unveiled a new look and features, making it faster, easier and more enjoyable for Internet users to find local news, information and shopping close to home.

The new look incorporates the best of the past with additional features and functionality to improve the site. The most significant change is a new, more simply designed gateway page and universal navigation throughout the site. The simplified navigation allows users to easily find the information they're looking for. Some of the new features of the site include comprehensive community resource information about 200 towns in Eastern Massachusetts, online ticketing, personal and family Web sites, and a new Tuesday chat series called, "Talk of the Town."

"The expansion of Town Online is one more step toward our company's mission of building community, both in print and online," said Kirk Davis, CNC president. "We want to relate to the people in each of our communities in a way that is as unique as the city or town in which they live. We're allowing and encouraging people to interact with their community. That's grass roots journalism at its best."

The redesign was contracted to New Tilt, a Boston-based company specializing in Web strategy, information architecture and experience design. "We have always been intrigued by the Town Online model," said Michelle Cham-

bers, New Tilt president and founder. "We were excited about working with the Town Online staff to create an enhanced online strategy and presentation for the site."

"We are thrilled to bring this new generation of Town Online to our users and advertisers," said Lynn Carberry, senior vice president of new media, for CNC. "For the past five years, Town Online has served as an extension of the local newspaper. Now, we can invite users to get involved in all aspects of their community through the interactivity of Town Online."

The site also will incorporate a new content management system powered by Openpages. Town Online will use Openpages ContentWare to manage and dynamically publish content from the more than 100 newspapers CNC publishes throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

The site is now broken down into six segments:

News: A comprehensive suburban daily for Eastern Massachusetts, where you'll find the top local, regional and national stories, as well as in-depth local news from more than 120 Eastern Massachusetts communities, including such things as police and fire logs, obituaries, social news, guides and more.

Marketplace: A new local shopping directory, powered by Placelinks' Local Commerce Directory System. The new 160-town directory replaces Town Online's current directory, expanding CNC's market size. It offers improved yellow pages, self-service ad management for small businesses, and

improved search ability, allowing shoppers to search by specific brands, products, services, activities and street name. In this section, you'll also find local coupons and specials, as well as Shop Town Online's local marketplace for shopping or browsing merchants close to home.

Community: Town Online's popular Community Connections program continues offering free Web sites for non-profit organizations. Town Online currently houses more than 1,800 community groups, sports teams and religious organizations. New to Town Online, users can now build personal or family web sites at no charge. Users can also find community resources, town information and a "find-a-person" feature.

Forums: Town Online has expanded its popular chat series. Beginning in January, you can join Town Online every Tuesday for "Talk of the Town," where chat guests and users can interact on various topics. Every day, users can interact within their city or town, or discuss points of interest through the Town Online Bulletin Boards. Users also can join email newsletters on topics such as local news headlines, parenting information and finding the right job.

Community Newspaper Company publishes 87 weekly newspapers, 4 daily newspapers, 14 shoppers, the award-winning online publication, Town Online (www.townonline.com) and numerous other targeted specialty products throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

LEGAL NOTICES

AHERNE ESTATE
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DEPARTMENT
MIDDLESEX, SS DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 01P0230EP
PROBATE OF WILL WITHOUT SURETIES

ESTATE OF Amy J. Ahern
LATE OF Arlington
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
NOTICE

A Petition has been presented in the above captioned matter praying that a certain instrument purporting to be the last will of said deceased may be proved and allowed and that Donald L. Perham, Sr. of Lynn in the County of Essex be appointed executor without giving surety on his bond.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Cambridge on or before 10:00 a.m. in the forenoon on March 5, 2001.

In addition you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, SHEILA E. MCGOVERN, Esquire,
First Justice of said Court at Cambridge, Massachusetts, the twenty-fourth day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and One.

JOHN R. BUONOMO,
REGISTER OF PROBATE COURT

AD#510844
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

BILOZUR ESTATE
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DEPARTMENT
MIDDLESEX, SS DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 01P0066EP
PROBATE OF WILL WITHOUT SURETIES

ESTATE OF George T. Bilozur
LATE OF Arlington
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
NOTICE

A Petition has been presented in the above captioned matter praying that a certain instrument purporting to be the last will of said deceased may be proved and allowed and that Ruth F. Bilozur also known as Ruth D. Bilozur of Arlington in the County of Middlesex be appointed executrix without giving surety on her bond.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Cambridge on or before 10:00 a.m. in the forenoon on February 15, 2001.

In addition you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, SHEILA E. MCGOVERN, Esquire,
First Justice of said Court at Cambridge, Massachusetts, the tenth day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and One.

JOHN R. BUONOMO,
REGISTER OF PROBATE COURT

AD#509222
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

CASE NO. 3413-S-2001-01
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT



DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
CASE NO. 3413-S-2001-01

TO: Mary Villone and Maria Solimando or Their Heirs, Successors and Legal Representatives.

You are hereby notified that Steven Orfanos has filed with this Court, a petition, alleging that:

1. Certificate of Title No. 215459 issued by the South Registry District of Middlesex County stands in the name of Steven Orfanos.

2. Said certificate of title is encumbered by a

mortgage given to Mary Villone dated February 27, 1946 registered as Document No. 237951 purporting to secure a Note for \$3,000.00 and a mortgage given to Maria Solimando dated April 27, 1929 registered as Document No. 96975 purporting to secure a Note for \$3,000.00.

3. Said mortgages are undischarged, unassigned, unrecorded and not legally or properly discharged.

4. Mortgagors or those claiming under them have been in uninterrupted possession for a period of twenty years after the expiration of the time limited in the mortgages for the full performance of the conditions thereof.

Petitioner prays that said mortgages be extinguished from Certificate of Title No. 215459.

and if you desire to make any objection or defense to said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and an answer under oath setting forth clearly and specifically your objection or defense to each part of said petition in the office of the Recorder of this Court in Boston at the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse on or before the 5th day of March, 2001.

By the Court

Attest:
Charles W. Trombly, Jr.
Recorder

Dated: January 25, 2001

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER:
John W. Fisher, Jr., Esq.
33 Bedford Street
Suite 16
Lexington, MA 02420

AD#511274
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

CONSOLIDATED PLAN
LEGAL NOTICE
NORTH SUBURBAN CONSORTIUM
CONSOLIDATED PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING - FEBRUARY 7, 2001

Title I of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (24 CFR Part 91-Subpart E) requires that in order to apply for certain U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Programs, the North Suburban Consortium (NSC) comprised of the communities of Malden, Medford, Arlington, Everett, Chelsea, Melrose and Revere must have an approved Consolidated Plan.

The overall goal of the Consolidated Plan, a management tool for the jurisdiction, is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities principally for low and moderate income persons. The primary means to this end is to extend and strengthen partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector in the production and operation of affordable housing.

The City of Malden, the "Representative Member" of the NSC, acting by and through the Malden Redevelopment Authority, and in accordance with the NSC Citizen Participation Plan, will conduct a public hearing in Room 421 of the Malden Government Center, 200 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA on Wednesday, February 7, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. This public hearing is intended to obtain views and opinions of residents within the NSC jurisdiction on their existing housing needs, and also focus on the effectiveness of programs and activities currently underway.

Upon its completion, the draft Consolidated Plan will include programs within the jurisdiction to help first-time homebuyers, provide low cost loans for housing rehabilitation and encourage rental housing development. Residents of the jurisdiction will be given a 30-day comment period to review the draft Consolidated Plan before its submission to HUD. Potential funding sources for these programs are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the State Small Cities Program (SSCP), the HOME Program, the Comprehensive Grant Program and other federal and state funding sources.

All people interested in the housing and non-housing strategy within the Consortium jurisdiction are encouraged to either attend the public hearing and/or send written comments to Peter Garbati, Director of Community Development, Malden Redevelopment Authority, Government Center - Room 621, 200 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148.

AD#508680
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

DRISCOLL ESTATE
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DEPARTMENT
MIDDLESEX, SS DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 01P0146EP
PROBATE OF WILL WITHOUT SURETIES

ESTATE OF Richard F. Driscoll
LATE OF Arlington
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
NOTICE

A Petition has been presented in the above captioned matter praying that a certain instrument purporting to be the last will of said deceased may be proved and allowed and that Audrey J. Indigaro of Arlington in the County of Middlesex be appointed executrix without giving surety on her bond.

captioned matter praying that a certain instrument purporting to be the last will of said deceased may be proved and allowed and that Kevin L. Driscoll of Arlington in the County of Middlesex be appointed executor without giving surety on his bond.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Cambridge, on or before 10:00 a.m. in the forenoon on February 23, 2001.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objections are based, within (30) days after the return day (or such time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, SHEILA E. MCGOVERN, Esquire,
First Justice of said Court at Cambridge, Massachusetts, the sixteenth day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and One.

JOHN R. BUONOMO,
REGISTER OF PROBATE COURT

AD#507087
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

HERBICIDE BIDS
LEGAL NOTICE
Town of Arlington
Massachusetts
Invitation to Bid

Sealed bids pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30 Section 39M for APPLICATION OF HERBICIDE (SONAR) AT SPY POND are invited and will be received by the Town Manager, Town of Arlington, Massachusetts until 11:00 A.M. Thursday, February 22, at the Office of the Purchasing Agent, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. Bids received after this time will not be accepted.

Specifications and Proposal forms may be obtained at the office of the Purchasing Agent at the above address. Proposals must be submitted on forms provided and in sealed envelope plainly marked: BID #01-02: APPLICATION OF HERBICIDE (SONAR) AT SPY POND.

Every bid shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a Bid bond, cash or a Treasurer's or Cashier's check, in the amount of 5% of the contract price.

A MANDATORY PREBID CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR Thursday, February 8, 2001 at 10:00 AM in the First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall Annex, 730 Mass. Ave., Arlington, MA.

Attestation Forms pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 701 of the Acts of 1983 must be submitted with bids in order to be considered. All applicable state laws concerning prevailing wage requirements apply.

For further information please contact Teresa DeBenedictis, Assistant Town Manager/Purchasing Department at 781-316-3010.

The Town Manager reserves the right to cancel any Invitation for Bids to reject in whole or in part any and all bids, when it is deemed in the best interest of the Town to do so.

Town of Arlington

Philip J. Farrington
Town Manager

AD#511270
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

INDIGARO ESTATE
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DEPARTMENT
MIDDLESEX, SS DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 01P0273EP
PROBATE OF WILL WITHOUT SURETIES

ESTATE OF Rose Ann Indigaro
LATE OF Arlington
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
NOTICE

A Petition has been presented in the above captioned matter praying that a certain instrument purporting to be the last will of said deceased may be proved and allowed and that Audrey J. Indigaro of Arlington in the County of Middlesex be appointed executrix without giving surety on her bond.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Cambridge on or before 10:00 a.m. in the forenoon on March 1, 2001.

In addition you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, SHEILA E. MCGOVERN, Esquire,
First Justice of said Court at Cambridge, Massachusetts, the twenty-second day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and One.

JOHN R. BUONOMO,
REGISTER OF PROBATE COURT

AD#509747
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

LIONETTA ESTATE
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DEPARTMENT
MIDDLESEX, SS DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 01P0255EP
PROBATE OF WILL WITHOUT SURETIES

ESTATE OF Pasquale J. Lionetta
LATE OF Arlington
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
NOTICE

A Petition has been presented in the above captioned matter praying that a certain instrument purporting to be the last will of said deceased may be proved and allowed and that Rosanne Lipe of Waltham in the County of Middlesex be appointed executrix without giving surety on her bond.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Cambridge on or before 10:00 a.m. in the forenoon on March 5, 2001.

In addition you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, SHEILA E. MCGOVERN, Esquire,
First Justice of said Court at Cambridge, Massachusetts, the twenty-fourth day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and One.

JOHN R. BUONOMO,
REGISTER OF PROBATE COURT

AD#510291
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

PUBLIC HEARING 2/12/01
LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ARLINGTON



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the regulations formulated thereunder, notice is hereby given that the Town of Arlington, acting through the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen, will hold a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Program. This public hearing is intended to obtain views from citizens, public agencies and other interested parties on housing and community development needs in the Town and discuss the performance of the CDBG Program and activities currently underway. An explanation of the funding process and eligibility requirements will be provided. Information gathered at the hearing will be used to assist the Town in the development of its Annual Action Plan as part of the Five Year Consolidated Plan for submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Said hearing will be held at 7:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2001, IN THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE ROBBINS MEMORIAL TOWN HALL, 730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend. Written comments are also welcomed, and may be submitted at the hearing or sent to the Department of Planning and Community Development, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476.

The Selectmen's Meeting Room is accessible for the mobility impaired. If you require other assistance in obtaining access to the hearing, or to the materials to be presented, please contact the Arlington Commission on Disabilities office at (781)-316-3431, during business hours.

Philip J. Farrington
Town Manager

Kevin F. Greeley, Chair
Board of Selectmen

AD#508681
Arlington Advocate 2/1, 2/8/01

PUBLIC HEARING 3/26/01
LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ARLINGTON



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the regulations formulated thereunder, notice is hereby given that the Town of Arlington, acting through the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen, will hold a Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Program. The purpose of this hearing is to receive proposals for funds for our CDBG Program Year XXVII (July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002).

Said hearing will be held at 7:30 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2001, IN THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE ROBBINS MEMORIAL TOWN HALL, 730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

The Town expects to receive approximately \$1,518,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for CDBG Program Year XXVII. There is a HUD requirement that all funded programs must principally benefit persons of low and moderate income, aid in the prevention of slums and blight, or meet other urgent community development needs that pose a threat to the health or welfare of the community. For further information and technical assistance in determining eligibility of proposed programs and in preparing proposals for funding, please contact the Department of Planning and Community Development, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, Massachusetts 02476, at (781) 316-3090.

Proposals for the use of funds must be submitted in writing. Applicants should provide twelve (12) copies of each proposal to be presented at the public hearing.

The Selectmen's Meeting Room is accessible for the mobility impaired. If you require other assistance in obtaining access to the hearing, or to the materials to be presented, please contact the Arlington Commission on Disabilities office at (781) 316-3431 during business hours.

Philip J. Farrington
Town Manager

Kevin F. Greeley, Chair
Board of Selectmen

AD#508683
Arlington Advocate 2/1, 2/8/01

SMITH ESTATE
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DEPARTMENT
PROBATE OF WILL ADMINISTRATION
WITH THE
WILL ANNEXED WITHOUT SURETIES
MIDDLESEX, SS DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 399371AA

ESTATE OF Gertrude E. Smith
LATE OF Arlington
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
NOTICE

A petition has been presented in the above-captioned matter praying that a certain instrument purporting to be the last will of said deceased may be proved and allowed and that Lillian T. Cunningham of Arlington in the County of Middlesex be appointed administratrix with the will annexed of said estate.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Cambridge on or before 10:00 in the forenoon on February 16, 2001.

In addition you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the Court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, Sheila E. McGovern, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Cambridge, the nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and one.

JOHN R. BUONOMO,
REGISTER OF PROBATE COURT

AD#507969
Arlington Advocate 2/1/01

1188 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ARLINGTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is herewith given in accordance with the provisions of Section 10.10.e.3 of the Zoning Bylaw that there has been filed by KELVIN T. LAM and PATRICIA MACHALINSKI of Belmont, Massachusetts on January 11, 2001 an application seeking permission to convert the use of a portion of an existing dwelling from residential occupancy to occupancy by an office. The existing dwelling is located at 1188 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE - BLOCK PLAN NO. 164-E-6. Said proposal would require a Special Permit under SECTION 5.04 (SUBSECTION 6.19) - TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS (OFFICE USES) of the Zoning Bylaw for the Town of Arlington.

Hearing in regard to the said petition will be held in the CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 112 MYSTIC STREET, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ON TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 13, 2001 AT 7:45 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS THE PETITIONER MAY BE HEARD.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Mary Winstanley O'Connor, Chairperson

AD#503654
Arlington Advocate 1/25, 2/1/01

19 WINTER ST.
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Hearing
February 6, 2001

We invite you to attend the hearing held in accordance with Title VI, Article 4 of the By-Laws of the Town of Arlington that there has been filed by Angela McGlashan & Dennis Corbett to consider changes to 19 Winter St. The hearing will come Tuesday, February 6,

Provenzano: Town did not discriminate against me

■ OFFICER, FROM PAGE 1

possible. "A group of Provenzano's supporters embraced him as they left the selectman's hearing room. Maher later added, "I think it's fair to say that we wouldn't have asked the reconsideration of the retirement board if Mr. Provenzano hadn't spoken."

This occurred after Maher disappeared from the room with one of the group of people who attended the meeting with Provenzano Monday. They both reappeared and the officer read from a handwritten statement on an unlined piece of letter paper.

He refused comment for *The Advocate*, only saying, "I only want my job back."

Maher added in a later interview, "I didn't direct Provenzano to do anything. He alleged a lot in his complaint and a lot of things in the newspaper. They're simply not true."

He refused comment about whether he directed Provenzano's statements via a third party. "It's not helpful for me to say anything."

Maher said he had contacted Provenzano's attorney Paul Hynes to let him know that he was willing to continue negotiations.

Provenzano was scheduled to appear before the Contributory Retirement Board last night, after the *Advocate's* deadline. That board, Maher said, would have ruled on whether to send Director of Police Services Fred Ryan's request for involuntary retirement for Provenzano to a regional panel or not.

Joe Rosselli of the retirement board said, "We haven't been contacted by town counsel on this. I can't tell you much more."

The retirement board completed a two-day hearing on Dec. 12 and 13. At that time, despite supplications by the retirement board for both attorneys to continue settlement negotiations,

Maher said, "We're done negotiating. The time is over."

Provenzano wishes to remain a working Arlington cop, despite the fact that MS is slowly weakening his body. Provenzano is feared to be a liability by the town since he can't perform "the essential functions of being a police officer," which prompted the involuntary retirement application.

A Chess Game

No one was sure what to expect when Provenzano walked forward to the microphone.

It was more apparent that no one imagined that he'd say what he did.

"I would like the opportunity to accept the final agreement [that the town offered] and continue my services," said Provenzano.

After that statement, Maher suggested the board move into executive session.

Selectman Charles Lyons said, "Just a point of clarification. Do you have anything else to say, Mr. Provenzano?"

He replied, "The town's offer was a very reasonable one... I did not receive the offer until the 9th of January. I had requested my lawyer to make the changes January 6. Had I saw the document, I would have signed it."

The offer he is referring to was the previous proposal on the table.

Maher questioned that assertion.

"I'm somewhat at a loss here," said Maher. "I had a very curt conversation with Mr. Provenzano's lawyer," Maher said. "I received a written communication that he chose not to accept the offer. People won't believe you when you say that this is final and you can either accept it or not accept it," implying that if he recanted on the decision to go forward, Maher would compromise his and the

town's credibility in bargaining.

But Maher continued, "What I'm certainly troubled by is that Mr. Provenzano is coming at a very late stage. I would hope that Mr. Provenzano would make additional statements that would make the matter much easier to resolve."

Lyons countered. "I really think it would be inappropriate for us to be substituting our judgement for any body at this point," he said.

Maher continued, "I would suggest that the board ask Mr. Provenzano if there's anything he'd like to add?"

"I did," said Lyons. Provenzano spoke. "The offer was fair. The final offer was fair and I'm willing to drop all complaints and drop all litigation. I just want to continue on as a police officer in the town of Arlington."

Maher, at this point, suggested the board move the discussion to executive session.

But Selectman Diane Mahon spoke up, saying that Maher indicated that a settlement was the best case scenario "and it is appearing we're at that juncture," she said.

Maher also made a motion to continue the settlement negotiations.

She added, "There seems to be something else that would be beneficial. Could you give us some guidance?" she said.

Maher, visibly strained, looked to find the words to direct the board, "I'm in a very difficult posi-

'The final offer was fair and I'm willing to drop all complaints and drop all litigation. I just want to continue on as a police officer in the town of Arlington.'

OFFICER GARY PROVENZANO

tion." He paused for a second and slowly continued. "There has been a certain allegation that (Provenzano) has been discriminated against because of his handicap. I fully believe that this is not the case."

Lyons retorted with his own motion to "continue the outstanding work town counsel is doing in relation to this matter."

Selectman Kathleen Keily Dias didn't like either of them.

"This should be held in executive session," she said. "Both motions are inappropriate."

Selectman Jack Hurd said he was riding the middle ground, but also felt a settlement was the best situation possible.

On it went a third time. Maher said, "I think there were things said about former and current police officers that were simply not true. If there was an acknowledgement of that, many things are possible."

Provenzano made another attempt.

"I apologize. I'm not aware of any comments I made about police officials in my statements. If I did make an accusation against police officials, I'm not aware of it."

Selectmen Chairman Kevin Greeley asked what Maher needed, then spoke to Provenzano.

"It seems you have an issue of dates. But town counsel has an issue with specific things that need to be said."

Once more.

"I am willing to drop all litigation and my complaints," Provenzano said. "To let it all go."

Maher said, "We're greatly overstepping our powers," Lyons said. "We are treading in powers that this board does not, should not and the voters have decided will not have."

At this point, at an impasse, the board decided to discuss the matter in executive session. But at this Provenzano's wife, Maher and Greeley left the room.

Greeley returned, followed by the other two.

At the end of open forum, Provenzano rose again to spoke. Now, with reading glasses on, he read from an unlined sheet of letter sized paper.

"I'd like to say I drop my litigation, I want to protect my family and I received bad advice. I do not believe that town officials discriminated against me because of my handicap [and I] ask the appropriate officials to consider this matter," he said.

"Mr. Provenzano, thank you very much," Lyons said.

Maher then said, "As I indicated before, anything is possible." The board continued the matter in executive session.

December hearing

The Contributory Retirement Board concluded a two-day hearing Dec. 13. The board projected to reach a decision at that time in January.

Since his 1996 diagnosis, Provenzano has been working light duty in the "records room" of the Community Safety Building from 4 p.m. to midnight. Working the third shift allows Provenzano a higher paying "night differential."

To get talks rolling for their most recent round of negotiations, Ryan devised a new noon to 8 p.m. shift. The reason was to provide Provenzano half of his night differential, while the cop could perform administrative duties during the day.

In past interviews, Provenzano indicated that he merely held two demands: To remain a policeman and get his pension when he reaches 55 years of age. The question then was why couldn't the town meet those requests?

Extensive testimony transpired during the two-day hearing, which indicated that Provenzano had requested additional conditions through his counsel, which included a promotion to police inspection that meant a \$1,000-a-year increase. He also asked to "tweak language regarding his fitness exam," and get rid of the "waiver of his right to a hearing in front of the retirement board." The promotion was denied.

As part of its compromise proposal, the town requested that Provenzano freely relinquish his procedural right to a hearing, a right that was presently allowing Provenzano the benefit to contest the involuntary retirement application in front of the retirement board.

But the town agreed to change the fitness exam wording. Maher also phoned Provenzano's lawyer and said the town would delete the "waiver" portion from the agreement. Still no compromise was reached, because Provenzano had "changed his mind again," said Edward Marlenga, special town counsel for litigation.

On cross-examination, Provenzano's attorney Paul Hynes immediately asked Marlenga whether or not in all his negotiation experience if there was ever a police officer who was contesting an involuntary retirement application "when he had a wife and children and was being forced off the job." Marlenga said, "No."

Hynes also highlighted documentation that showed Provenzano's willingness to drop attorney's fees from the settlement, which was not highlighted by Marlenga.

Progressives lose term limits battle

■ STATE HOUSE, FROM PAGE 1

has become common on policy matters in Finneran's House of Representatives. Marzilli said the two groups have been working to "expand democracy within the House and Senate." Though the two sides don't agree ideologically, Marzilli said he will work with anyone who wants to provide rights for political minorities. In fact, the state representative is concerned that the commonwealth is not politi-

cally diverse.

The decline of the Republican party concerns the Arlington Democrat.

"It's not good for public discourse when dissenting views are muted by [low] numbers or stifled by strong arm tactics," he said.

While the two representatives stood behind term limits for the speaker, they are still against individual member term limits.

Paulsen thinks Finneran went too far with his latest move.

"He wanted this to happen. It wouldn't have happened if he didn't want it to happen. Any suggestion to the contrary is foolish," she said.

That kind of power is taxing for Marzilli.

The "extraordinary power" of the Massachusetts speaker position and Finneran being "smart, hard-working, and tough" combines to make a figure that is "equal to this governor," said Marzilli.

The Arlington Democrat called

the speaker's power an "unhealthy dominance" of the system.

Marzilli found out this week about the power when Finneran bounced him from his taxation committee seat, leaving him with three committee seats: long-term debt and capital expenditures, local affairs, and federal financial assistance.

However, Marzilli said his four seats last year were more than most state representatives.

"That's a good, strong collection of committee assignments. But [moving from taxation], was an undeniable attempt by Tom Finneran to demote me," Marzilli acknowledged.

Though he lost his taxation seat, Marzilli doesn't think that committee will have much work before it anyway. With the recent referendum (Question 4), which will cut the state income tax from 5.9 to 5 percent, Marzilli doesn't foresee many tax questions before the committee.

"I've been on the committee 10 years, since I was first sworn in to the Legislature. I am perfectly capable of impacting tax policy whether I'm on the committee or not," Marzilli said.

The state representative is not surprised that he was removed from one of the committees. In fact, Marzilli didn't even bother to request committee assignments this year because of the speaker's power.

Regardless of Finneran's power, Marzilli said it will not affect the way he legislates.

"Those of us who stand on principle and who use all of our skill and energy to fight for our constituents are far more successful than those [who support Finneran]," he said.

Police receive grant for five more officers

■ POLICE, FROM PAGE 1

500. Here, it's one for every 700 (residents)," he said.

But much of what Ryan wants is counterbalanced by a ballooning budget deficit for fiscal year 2002 that now stands at \$3.2 million.

Selectman Kathleen Keily Dias asked, "Why can't you realign your staff instead of adding staff?"

He replied, "We are staffed to react. We're managing by crisis. Can we from time to time use our existing resources? Yes. Are we using creative strategies? No."

Nonetheless, Selectman Charles Lyons rallied the board to make police staffing "the highest budget priority this year."

Ryan said his utmost goal is to employ a captain for what he called "professional standards and accreditation."

Ryan added that people would usually know this as an "internal affairs," slot, but "we want it to be positive."

That captaincy, two new lieutenants and five new officers would cost the town \$793,000 in personnel costs a year. The federal grant of \$375,000 is payable over three years, and "we have some flexibility as to how we distribute that," said Ryan.

The three ranking officer positions would likely be filled from within, said Ryan, and then the division would hire three more patrol officers.

What Ryan wants to do with those five officers is to create a traffic and parking unit, along

with one new lieutenant to supervise.

He cited the community-wide survey Boston-based Crest Associates performed for the police department as ample evidence for a parking and traffic unit, saying, "traffic and parking is the major issue affecting the quality of life in Arlington."

A total of 37 percent of residents responded to a survey that asked them to rank the three biggest police issues in town. Meanwhile, 22.2 percent said traffic and parking was a "big problem." The next largest "big problem," was stray or barking animals at 5.6 percent.

Ryan did say he was "disappointed," at the staff survey's low response rate of 40 percent. While an open survey like the town-wide citizen questionnaire scores well if as few as 15 percent return it, a survey sent to employees of an organization that only gets a 40 percent rate of return gets a low grade, he said.

"There was a lack of understanding among our staff of the intent of the management study and internal survey which was reflected in the low response rate in the internal survey," Ryan said.

Crest's study's results showed that police personnel are concerned about department morale and many even said that, knowing what they know now, they would not have become an Arlington police officer.

"Our staff holds themselves in low esteem," he said at the meeting.

State representatives pleased with victories

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

For progressive Democrats, so often on the other side of policy issues, there was a silver lining to last week's House proceedings.

Though they lost the term limits fight, progressives and Republicans were able to thwart the House leadership's attempt to acquire more control over House matters.

"The reforms were more important," said state Rep. James Marzilli. "We already grant more power to the speaker than other states allow."

According to Marzilli, after the "Animal House" scandal of last year, where there were late night budget shenanigans in the State House, Finneran appointed a special commission to look into reforming the budget process. The commission recommended reforms, which members believed would allow members and residents an easier time following the budget process.

"The speaker never wants any rule changes to loosen his power," said state Rep. Anne Paulsen. "What he tries to do is reduce the power of the individual members."

Finneran disregarded the proposals, but a coalition of progressive Democrats led by Marzilli and Paulsen were able to uphold some measures. For instance, instead of the leadership deciding on line item discussions, there will be a set time for debate on the different budget areas.

At that point, representatives will be able to come prepared to discuss a certain subject and

Massachusetts residents will know what items will be debated at particular times.

In addition, amendments will be taken up in a more orderly fashion. Instead of sloshing through amendments on varied subjects by a particular member, the House will take up amendments on specific items together.

Another item supported by the progressives, which was approved by the Legislature, dealt with, what Marzilli called, "a graveyard committee." Marzilli said the steering and policy committee has been a place where bills go to die.

According to House rules, a committee is supposed to report on a bill within 30 days of the submission to the committee. However, many times bills spend much longer there and wind up not seeing the light of day.

However, after the Legislature's approval, the House clerk will place the item on the chamber calendar once it reaches 30 days. Legislators decided with the progressives and Republicans and shot down the speaker's notion, which would have wiped out the 30-day limit.

Yet another rules provision was eliminating absentee voting by legislators. Marzilli said some members vote for absent legislators, but that has been wiped out.

"If the bipartisan coalition failed last week, it would have made it more difficult for legislators and the public to participate and understand an already messy budget process and we would have legalized absentee voting by legislators," he added.



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